

March 9, 2012

Weekly Views

Nineteen offenders in the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) Wee Ones Nursery (WON) Program attended infant CPR training facilitated by IWP's training department Secretary and Certified CPR Instructor Donna Burke. All of the offenders, which included WON mothers, expectant mothers, offender nannies, the WON clerk and the Family Preservation Center clerk, passed the written test as well as the practical applications of the training.

WFIU Public Radio (I.U. Bloomington) News Director Stan Jastrzebski visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to interview Superintendent Keith Butts relative to a story that will focus on the relationship between the economy and the management and operation of correctional facilities. The story will air next Friday on WFIU 103.7FM and online at www.indianapublicmedia.org/radio.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility took part in two telethons, donating \$1000 and 75 PLUS quilts to the American Red Cross, assisting southern Indiana tornado victims. Both WTWO/WAWV and WTHI TV hosted events and Wabash Valley made the contributions on behalf of Fatherhood and PLUS participants. 100 percent of the telethon proceeds were dedicated to disaster relief efforts.

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) hosted "Keeping the Faith Alive," an event of offender testimony about their struggles with addiction and their commitment to new changes in their lifestyle. Offenders spoke to a crowded gymnasium of all 436 TC offenders, IDOC staff and Corizon guests. Highlighting the afternoon event were interludes of music performed by the facility's Complex Choir.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility had a facility wide celebration of Black History Month with guest speaker Ike Randolph, Deputy Director of Volunteer Services. The facility band provided music for the event which concluded with an art contest. Plainfield staff and 375 offenders attended the program.

Offender dog handlers, Directors, and volunteers of the Prison Greyhound program met for the first time during an orientation at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The offenders received instruction on dog handling, care, and feeding. Three canine graduates of former prison programs, ISR, IYC and the Ohio State Prison, facilitated hands on instruction. The Prison Greyhound program is scheduled to commence with the arrival of three dogs on March 17.

Madison Correctional Facility's ADOPT (A Dog on Prison Turf) canine and feline rescue program donated \$500 for medical expenses for animals injured in the recent tornados in Southern Indiana.

Chain O' Lakes (COL) Correctional Facility hosted a Community Advisory Board where Superintendent Kathy Griffin took the opportunity to introduce Mrs. Rhonda Thomas Hardy, newly promoted administrative assistant. Superintendent Griffin shared several retirements of long term staff and let the board know that the facility is in the process of hiring new staff and if they knew of anyone interested. Superintendent Griffin also informed the board that the population count is back up and that COL is in a better position to help the community with any special projects.

Employees at the Indiana State Prison (ISP) participated in the state-wide Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive. ISP collected 379 non-perishable food item and toiletries and received \$335 in donations. All of these donations were given to the Michigan City Salvation Army, which serves over 800 families within the community. During the food drive, Superintendent William K. Wilson put out a challenge to staff stating they would match all cash donations given on Ash Wednesday. The Superintendent's office sent out a big "Thank You" to everyone for their donations.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) participated in the Hoosier Helping Hoosiers Food Drive, under the leadership of Indiana's First Lady, Cheri Daniels. CIF staff collected two containers of non-perishable food items and \$400 in donations. All of these donations were given to the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana in Muncie.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility staff donated 402 food items during the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers food drive. Students from the Venture Scouts, Future Soldiers and PLUS units competed to earn the most donations. Venture Scouts earned the top award with their efforts resulting in 200 food items.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility PLUS unit delivered food and cash donations to the Emmaus Mission Center Food Pantry. The facility, along with community support, delivered 1803 food items to the food pantry and also presented a check for \$250 from the fundraising efforts of the PLUS unit.

Superintendent Stanley Knight congratulated staff on the success of the Putnamville Correctional Facility's Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive. Event Coordinators Cara Rush and Sarah Laroche delivered 1,267 food items and monetary donations totaling \$1,322 to the Clay County Emergency Food Pantry, Cunot Community and Senior Citizen Center and the Putnam County Emergency Food Pantry. Each organization received 422 food items and a check for over \$440.00 thanks to the generous donations of staff, PLUS, the Employee Recognition Committee and the ISF Community Fund.

PLUS offenders at the Plainfield Correctional Facility made a \$300 donation to the tornado relief fund. Several offenders in the PLUS unit are from the affected area and wanted to help where help was needed most. Their donation will be added to staff donations as part of the Department's effort to provide assistance.